AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY

The Amana Church Society was founded by a God-fearing, God-loving and pioneering group not associated with any other church or organization. It had its beginning as the "Community of True Inspiration" in the year 1714 in the province of Hesse, Germany. They were much persecuted in Germany because of their belief in the 'power of divine inspiration,' because they would not send their children to the then established schools and because they were pacifistic in their beliefs and aims.

The "Community of True Inspiration," which had its humble beginning under the 'inspired' leadership of Eberhard Ludwig Gruber and Johann Friedrich Rock, was more or less dormant during the early nineteenth century when 'renewal' came to the group with Christian Metz assuming the leadership. He, while divinely inspired, designated that their path lay to the 'West' and the New World. This trek, begun in 1842, ended in the "Ebenezer Community," which they newly established near Buffalo in New York State. Because of deterring and worldly influences, the Ebenezer lands were abandoned in 1854 and subsequently the "Amana Colonies" were founded in Iowa in 1855.

The Amana Church Society does no proselyting, does not do missionary work and does not actively work to make converts to the faith. It believes in a peaceful, quiet, 'brotherly' way of life. Although many of the stricter Church rules have been relaxed over the years, the Amana Church Society still maintains its simple, unostentatious churches and rituals, and although there have been no 'divinely' inspired leaders since the demise of Barbara Landman Heinemann in 1883, the faith is still paramount in divine revelation of the word of God through His chosen representatives on earth, and the testimonies of the aforementioned religious leaders are still read in all the regular services. Although the Amana Church has no connection with any other church society in the world, the permanency of this small group over the years attests to a faith in God that makes the term "Amana" truly meaningful - "as a rock" or "to remain faithful."